

The Eurasia Programme

Call for proposals 2014



1. General

Norwegian institutions of higher education are invited to apply for funds for projects related to higher education collaboration with institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The funds are provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The funds are administered by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU). SIU is a public Norwegian agency that promotes international cooperation in education.

There are three categories of applications in this call:

- 1) Additional funding to ongoing long-term projects currently funded by the Eurasia Programme.
- 2) Support for limited collaboration activities.
- 3) Seed money to prepare a proposal for a long-term project.

A total of 3.5 million Norwegian kroner (NOK) is available through the call. The maximum allocation per project is NOK 250 000. The project period is 1 December 2014 to 1 September 2015.

A subsequent call for long-term project funds is expected in 2015, with a tentative application deadline in September 2015. This call will belong to a new programme period. Adjustments in the scope and priorities of the programme, as well as the criteria for selection of projects, may therefore be expected.

Further background information, including the Eurasia Programme Document, can be found at <http://www.siu.no/eurasia>.

2. Aims of the project funds

The objectives of the Norwegian Cooperation Programme in Higher Education with Eurasia (“the Eurasia Programme”) are to:

- increase *relevance* of higher education in the cooperating countries by joint development of sustainable study programmes in fields of high priority at institutional and national level;

- enhance *quality* of education;
- contribute to increased internationalisation of higher education in the cooperating countries and in Norway, and to share Norwegian experience from the Bologna reform process to institutions in the cooperating countries;
- increase academic connections and cooperation between Norway and the cooperation countries.

In the framework of the Eurasia Programme, modernisation of higher education will be achieved by way of projects focusing on the following:

- Curriculum development
- Introduction of new teaching methods or teaching materials
- Quality assurance mechanisms
- University management and administration

3. Priorities in the call

There are three categories of applications in this call:

1) Additional funding to ongoing long-term project currently funded by the Eurasia Programme. Projects which have been granted long-term funding in 2010, 2011 or 2012 may apply for support for additional activities. Such activities must represent a clear added value to the existing activities within the ongoing project.

Priority will be given to projects which have successfully implemented its planned activities. Projects which due to delays in implementation have major unspent funds will not be considered for additional funding.

2) Support for limited activities

Eligible applicants may apply for support for limited cooperation activities. For information on eligible activities, see paragraph 6. Such activities may, but do not have to, aim to develop a long-term collaboration.

3) Seed money

Eligible applicants may apply for seed money, with an explicit goal of preparing an application for a Eurasia long-term project before the tentative deadline of September 2015. A seed money project may include various activities as listed in paragraph 6. Priority will be given to proposals which demonstrate a clear and feasible plan for long-term cooperation in line with the overall priorities of the programme.

4. Terms and conditions

- All accredited Norwegian higher education institutions, or institutions with accredited programmes, public and private, are eligible applicants for the project funds.
- All higher education institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, public or private, are eligible partner institutions, provided that they are fully recognised and accredited in their home country and provide education at a level comparable to what is offered at the eligible institutions in Norway.
- Relevant network partners, institutions and organisations from the public and/or private sectors in the partner countries may be included in the project.
- Applications related to all levels of higher education are welcome (Bachelor, Master and PhD).
- Higher education collaboration is the focus and priority of the call. SIU can only support projects that aim at developing and/or strengthening collaboration within higher education.
- The projects should be faculty initiated, and must be endorsed by the leadership of the partner institutions.

5. Eligible academic fields

Applications within all fields and disciplines are welcome, including multidisciplinary projects.

6. Eligible activities

The following activities and costs may be included in the project:

Project development:

- Preparatory visits
- International project meetings
- Development of joint courses, study programmes and degrees
- Teaching materials
- Information and dissemination
- Other

Implementation of joint education activities:

- Intensive programmes (5 days to 6 weeks; courses, field schools, summer schools, etc.)

- Short-term student mobility (1 week to 4 weeks)
- Long-term student mobility (more than 4 weeks)
- Training/competence-building of academic, technical and administrative staff
- Guest lecturing
- Student participation in research activities/projects
- Joint teaching and supervision
- Workshops/seminars
- Infrastructure
- Other

Activities not supported include salary, salary compensation and research activities not clearly linked to higher education.

7. Application procedures

Interested faculty at Norwegian institutions should submit applications to SIU, based on proposals jointly prepared by the collaborating institutions. All proposals must include objectives, activities, work plans, budget and reflections on the sustainability and risk factors of the project/cooperation.

Applications must be submitted through SIUs online system for application and reporting, Espresso: <http://espresso.siu.no>.

The final deadline for applications is 3 November 2014 at 15:00/3 pm CET.

In addition to the online application, two documents must be submitted to SIU:

- A **signature page**, available in Espresso when the application is submitted. This page must be signed by the project coordinator and a person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation at the Norwegian institution. Additional network partners are not required to sign the signature page.

The signature page should be **scanned and sent by email** to bard.hekland@siu.no by 17 November 2014.

- A **letter of commitment** from the main partner institution outside Norway. A letter of commitment is a formal document where your main partner institution outside Norway commits to participate in and contribute to the project. It should contain information that is as specific as possible with regard to what resources (funds, work hours, equipment, premises, etc.) the institution will contribute to the project. It should be signed by a person

authorised to enter into such commitments on behalf of the institution. Letters of commitment from network partners are not required.

Letters of commitment should be **uploaded in Espresso** before submission of the application. If this is not possible, letters may be sent by email to bard.hekland@siu.no by 17 November 2014.

Incomplete applications, late applications and applications without signature page and/or letter of commitment will not be processed.

8. Financial guidelines

The total project sum per application is limited to 250 000 NOK. The project period start-up date is 1 December 2014. All activities funded by the programme must be concluded by 1 September 2015. Please see the [Guidelines for Eurasia Programme Calls 2014](#) for budget guidelines. The budget in the application should only include funds applied for through SIU.

9. Selection criteria

Projects will be selected based on the priorities of the call and the quality of the applications. The activities of the proposed project must contribute to the aims of the call and will be assessed based on how they respond to the following criteria:

Relevance

- Relevance of the project to the objectives and priorities of the programme
- The extent to which the proposal is based on an adequate needs analysis
- The objectives address issues relevant to the participating institutions/organisations and target groups
- The proposal is innovative and/or complementary to other initiatives and projects already carried out by the participating institutions/organisations
- The proposal brings added value through results that would not be attained by activities carried out in a single country

Quality of the project design and implementation

- The objectives are clearly defined and realistic
- The consistency between project objectives and activities proposed
- The clarity, completeness and quality of the project work plan, including appropriate phases for preparation and implementation
- The extent to which the educational activities are appropriate to the aims of the project and involve an appropriate number of participants

- The extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity
- Risk assessment

Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements

- The extent to which the project involves an appropriate mix of complementary participating institutions/organisations with the necessary profile, experience and expertise to successfully deliver all aspects of the project
- The distribution of responsibilities and tasks demonstrates the commitment and active contribution of all participating institutions/organisations
- The involvement of one or more network partners brings an added value to the project

SIU will select projects for funding. Results will be published in December 2014.

SIU's Complaint Regulations can be found at www.siu.no.

10. Reporting procedures

The projects selected for support are required to submit a final report upon completion of the project. Reports must be submitted through SIUs online system for application and reporting, Espresso: <http://espresso.siu.no>. The deadline for reporting is 1 October 2015.

For further information, please contact:

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU)

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